

The Connecticut General Assembly



Testimony of Representative Jeff Berger
Veterans' Affairs Committee
Tuesday, February 23, 2016

Bill #199, An Act Concerning The Observance Of Veterans' Day

Chairman Hennessy, Chairwoman Flexer, and members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, thank you for the opportunity to address you today. I am here in support of Raised Bill #199, An Act Concerning the Observance of Veterans' Day.

Connecticut does not currently designate Veteran's Day as an official day off in statute. I believe prohibiting public school sessions on Veteran's Day is just a small token of respect we can lend to our Veterans and their loved ones.

As part of a military family, I am keenly aware of what families go through when they have servicemen and women overseas, especially during the holidays. As legislators, we can send a clear message to our constituencies that we appreciate their service and we take a moment every year to acknowledge that throughout the school system.

I have the honor of being here today with Mr. Joseph Nolan, who lost his son, Army Sgt. Joseph M. Nolan, a military intelligence expert, in Fallujah in 2004. Mr. Nolan made the trip to Hartford today to be present and to voice his support of this legislation. I am sure there are many families in our state in support of this measure and that would be very appreciative if we were to see it through this session.

I believe implementing this change would have minimal impact on the school calendars, but would make a significant statement from our legislature. I urge my colleagues to support this measure so we may get it passed.

Again, I thank the Committee for the opportunity to address you today and stand by if there any questions.

